

FACES ON THE WALL.

All the Races of Men Depicted on the New Library Building.

NE ESPECIALLY INTERESTING feature of the architectural decoration on the new Congressional Library Building is the series of heads that ornament the windows of the first or library floor. These heads, which are two feet in height, are carved in the white New Hampshire granite, the stone used in the construction of the building. They form the keystone ornaments of the copings of the arched windows.

The idea of making these ornaments an ethnological study was especially appropriate in more ways than one, says a writer in the *Evening Star*. A National library naturally embraces some account of every nation on the earth, and this, the main reason for their being, would be sufficient; but there are supposed to be from 30 to 35 distinct races of men on the globe. There were 33 windows of the nature to require some special and distinct form of ornament, hence the happy conjunction of purpose.

The artist who made the models for the heads, and under whose supervision they have been carried out in granite, was Mr. William Boyd, a native of Scotland and a graduate of the School of Fine Arts at Edinburgh.

The arrangement of the heads round the building has been made in accordance with the supposed degree of civilization of the various races, as far as can be seen as we take the heads round the building.

On the front, which is the west side, above the windows on either side of the doorway are the heads of the Saxon and the Latin races, these representing the highest types of man. On the left is the Saxon. This is the "long-headed" European, the Saxon of northern Britain, of Scandinavian origin.

To the right is the Latin, the general name given to the peoples speaking the languages derived from the Latin. The pure Latin race is the Italian people, of course, but the Spaniards are largely of Latin origin. The French, Portuguese, part of the Swiss and other nations of Europe, whose countries were conquered by the Romans and occupied by their armies and colonists, are all partly Latin also, and the mingling of the natives with their conquerors.

Above the window on the south side of the central front pavilion the classic head of the Greek is easily recognized. It has the aquiline nose and oval face.

Following the building southward the next group of heads we come to on the west side of the building.

Immediately round the corner, on the south side, which the sun lights up so gloriously these mornings, revealing every lineament of the faces on this wall, are the heads of the Hun, the Saxon, the Arab, and the Jew.

In the center of this group is the Semite or Shemite, the descendant of Shem, the child of Israel. This face reveals, with its dark, piercing eyes gleaming from beneath the overhanging eyebrows, the intensity of character justly attributed to the Jewish race.

The prominence of the profile, the fearless, proud eyes and the familiar bearded head are prominent in a glance the Arab in the face of this group. The Arab complexion is brown, always dark, owing, no doubt, to the warmth of the climate of his home, for though Arabia is surrounded on three sides by the sea, it is the chain of hills excluded in a great measure, the modifying influence of the currents of air from the ocean. It is said that few nations have approached so near to the condition of standing still in a moral and social as well as industrial point of view as has the Arab.

At the far corner, on the south side of the building, we find the heads of the Turk, Egyptian, and the Abyssinian. The Turk, surrounded by the familiar face, reveals the cunning, avaricious and cruel character attributed to this much maligned family of mankind.

The Egyptian's face is depicted with the thought of the lost greatness of his country. The face has the thinness, high cheek bones, and thick lips which are supposed to be the distinctive features of the ancient Egyptians. He wears the heavy, black turban peculiar to the Copts. His neighbor, the Abyssinian, is a much more attractive type of countenance, at least in the attraction of openness and apparent truthfulness, if not trained, to a certain degree.

Round the corner, on the east side, is found the head of the Chinese, which is the greater diversity among them, and really more interest attaches to them because of their curious customs, and the slight knowledge we have of many of them. The first group of heads of the Chinese of the Malay, the Polynesian, and the Australian.

The face here depicts the characteristics as well as the character of the race. It has the high cheek bones, high square skull, the depressed nose and large lips peculiar to them. The eyes and general expression show the fierce, restless, aggressive and altogether low character of this amphibian.

The Polynesian is the neighbor of the Malay. In physical structure and appearance and general characteristics he is much like the Malay, though the two heads show distinct varieties of both of the races.

The third face, that of the Australian, considered to be the most uncivilized of mankind. The face here reveals the absence of civilization, but it also lacks roundness, cruelty and fierce expression of many of the other faces on this side of the building. In a general way the features and complexion are much the same as those of the negro, but he has waving or curling hair instead of the negro's wool. The eye, too, is deeper and more piercing. The face here shows an exceedingly depressed nose, though this is not one of the race characteristics, as it is of the Malay or negro; it is, however, generally very wide.

The group of five in the center of the east side represent rather a striking contrast to the heads occupying the central positions on the west side. They are those of the Negro, Zulu, Papuan, and Akka.

The Negro—the Spanish diminutive of negro—is the name given to the race inhabiting the interior of some of the Philippine Islands. The complexion is the same as the negro's, the lips are thinner, the nose smaller, the hair is black, though less woolly.

The Zulu's is a dull and heavy countenance, though the face here shows the extent to which the general character attributed to the Zulu, which is a black, though less woolly.

The Papuan, whose head forms the central figure of the group, is in all probability the most savage of the races depicted on the globe. The distinctive feature of these inhabitants of New Guinea is the frizzled, bushy hair, of a coarse and wiry texture. It is impossible to show this to its natural extent in the granite, but we have seen pictures of the Feejee Islanders, who belong to the Papuan family, and remember the striking appearance of the hair. When dressed according to the fashion, it forms a resisting and offers no slight protection against the blow of a club. The hair dressing of this race occupies a considerable portion of their time.

In the next face the features of the negro, the facial characteristics of the native African are all prominently shown here—the woolly hair, thick lips, projecting lower part of face, long and narrow skull, low, retreating forehead. The Akka, adjoining the negro, offers no slight protection against the blow of a club. The hair dressing of this race occupies a considerable portion of their time.

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